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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,484	09/23/2003	Christian Herren	242019US6DIV	9077

22850 7590 09/27/2005

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1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
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CORDRAY, DENNIS R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/667,484

Applicant(s)

HERREN ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis Cordray

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 17-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/23/03</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is a first action on the merits of Application SN 10/667,484.

#### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the disclosure contains numerous references to claims 6-16, which have been cancelled in this application because they have already been allowed in an issued patent (6645298). Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The use of the descriptors "relatively low" and "relatively high" is ambiguous, there being no comparative reference disclosed in the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kundrot (4522843) in view of Hollinger Jr. (5922280).

Kundrot discloses a process for deacidifying books that comprises treating the books with dried alkaline particles dispersed in an air or gas stream (Abstract and col 3, lines 42-44). Kundrot further discloses that suitable alkaline particles can be carbonates and bicarbonates of Group I or II metals of the Periodic Table, which would include potassium carbonate and potassium hydrogen carbonate (col 2, lines 54-57). Potassium carbonate and potassium hydrogen carbonate are listed in claims 2 and 3 as being suitable salts with the claimed acidity and water affinities. Kundrot does not disclose that the potassium salts are applied as a mixture.

Hollinger Jr. discloses a treatment for deacidifying archival articles (i.e.-papers, books) that comprises in one embodiment spraying or dusting multiple alkaline buffer materials in powder form onto a surface (Abstract and col 4, lines 6-8). The alkaline buffer can be a mixture of more than one component chosen from all known alkaline materials, which includes the claimed compounds (col 6, lines 27-33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a mixture of alkaline materials in the process of Kundrot in view of Hollinger Jr. in order to control the pH of the treated material.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4, 5 and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While there is prior art that teaches the use of potassium hydrogen phosphate as an additional aid for adjusting pH as well as the use of polystyrene beads as a fluidizing agent for powdery

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mixtures, there is insufficient teaching to render all of the limitations of these claims unpatentable or obvious.

### ***Conclusion***

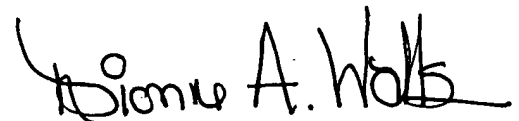
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure [Smith (3676182), Kelly Jr. (3939091), Smith (4318963), Wittekind et al (5322558), Leiner et al (6080448), and Schmidt et al (6071475)]. They pertain to other methods for deacidifying paper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Cordray whose telephone number is 571-272-8244. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 7:30 -4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
DRC

  
**DIONNE A. WALLS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**